



**United States Department of State**

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

March 30, 2020

## **NOTICE**

### **Maryland “Stay Home” Order**

To further combat the spread of COVID-10, the Governor of Maryland, Larry Hogan, has issued an executive order directing all residents to stay at residences except:

- to conduct or participate in Essential Activities (defined below);
- staff and owners of certain designated businesses and organizations that are not required to close pursuant to the order may travel:
- between their Homes and those businesses and organizations; and
- to and from customers for the purpose of delivering goods or performing services; and
- staff and owners of non-essential businesses may travel between their Homes and those non-essential businesses for the purpose of engaging in Minimal Operations; and to and from customers for the purpose of delivering goods.

This Order remains effective until after the Governor’s termination of the state of emergency and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded, or until rescinded, superseded, amended, or revised by additional orders.

For purposes of the order, “Essential Activities” means:

- obtaining necessary supplies or services for one’s self, family, household members, pets, or livestock, including, without limitation: groceries, supplies for household consumption or use, supplies and equipment needed to work from home, laundry, and products needed to maintain safety, sanitation, and essential maintenance of the home or residence;
- engaging in activities essential for the health and safety of one’s self, family, household members, pets, or livestock, including such things as seeking

medical or behavior health or emergency services, and obtaining medication or medical supplies;

- caring for a family member, friend, pet, or livestock in another household or location, including, without limitation, transporting a family member, friend, pet, or livestock animal for essential health and safety activities, and to obtain necessary supplies and services;
- traveling to and from an educational institution for purposes of receiving meals or instructional materials for distance learning;
- engaging in outdoor exercise activities, such as walking, hiking, running, or biking, but only in compliance with specific rules and applicable social distancing guidance published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the Maryland Department of Health (“MDH”);
- travel required by a law enforcement officer or court order; or
- traveling to and from a **federal**, State, or local government building for a necessary purpose. (**This includes traveling to and from a foreign mission to perform essential foreign government services.**)

Governor Hogan has prohibited gatherings in Maryland larger than 10 persons. This includes:

- social, community, spiritual, religious, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings and events of more than 10 people are prohibited at all locations and venues, including but not limited to parades, festivals, conventions, and fundraisers; and
- planned large gatherings and events must be canceled or postponed until after termination of the state of emergency and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded.

A copy of the order is available at: <https://t.co/U4DOZlvsTW?amp=1>.

### **How does this impact foreign missions and their members?**

Foreign missions may continue to perform essential government operations in Maryland. However, all foreign missions are expected to adopt strategies aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19, such as maximizing opportunities for their members to work from home (“telework”), applying social distancing of at least six feet, and avoiding local travel unless required for purposes of protecting health, safety, and protection of property.

When not performing those functions, foreign mission personnel and their dependents are expected to fully comply with the requirements of the Governor's order, as well as any other applicable orders issued by local or municipal authorities.

The Department appreciates your patience and understanding as local authorities begin to implement these new restrictions.

### **Questions or Issues**

Inquiries concerning the impacts of COVID-19 and the associated responsive effort on the operation of foreign missions in the United States should be transmitted by electronic mail to [OFM-EmergencyMgt@state.gov](mailto:OFM-EmergencyMgt@state.gov).

### **Resources**

- COVID-19 in Maryland: <https://governor.maryland.gov/coronavirus/>
- CDC's Coronavirus Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- CDC's Interim Guidance for Business and Employers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- Compilation of circular diplomatic notes and notices released by OFM concerning COVID-19: <https://www.state.gov/circular-notes-and-notices-covid-19/>
- Follow OFM on social media: Facebook.com@ofmdc and Twitter @OFM\_Ambassador